



National Political Party Convention Support

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All Hazards Weather Support Workshop
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Memphis, TN

Scope of the conventions

- Both political conventions held in Central Region
- Both were held on back-to-back weeks!
 - *First time since the 1950's*
- Timing of the RNC a challenge given Minnesota severe weather climatology



08.25.08



DENVER DNC 2008.COM

Info for the Dems road to the DNC...and the White House!

What was our role?

- NWS tasked with providing critical weather and water support to support partners at both conventions
- How do we do this exactly?
 - *No real blueprint to follow 😊*
- What are the expectations of our key partners at the conventions?

The beginning

Where to start?

- Planning for the conventions began in January, 2008
- Planning team:
 - *MICs from WFO Boulder, WFO Twin Cities, CWSU Longmont and CWSU Farmington*
 - *CRH and NWS HQ Homeland Security*
- First task was to meet with Bob Thompson, WFO Boston MIC
 - *Boston provided support to the 2004 DNC convention*
 - *We started with their plan!*

The beginning

Identifying our key partners...

- ***Secret Service***
 - Security and overall management of the event
- ***FEMA***
 - Charged with recovery of the aftermath if something occurred (not just the conventions!)
- ***Local and state Emergency Management***
 - Has the convention plus typical day-to-day local concerns

The beginning

Spring into early summer

- Team began to work up preliminary draft plans to tackle both conventions
- Planning team held monthly conference calls
- Challenges abounded!
 - *Tough to integrate with Secret Service at first*
 - *Who is the “right” person locally to contact?*
 - *Still trying to figure out what it is these partners need from US...*
 - *What is the lingo?*

The beginning

ICS 101...

IOF

JIC

USSS



TFERS

NSSE

MACC

The evolution

Summer to “crunch time”

- Plans became more fluid as local contacts were made
- Changing requirements were a big challenge
 - *Who needed us and where?*
- Creating an infrastructure to support all these offices from CRH
 - *IT needs for on-site support (comms, security)*
 - *What can the CRH ROC do to help?*

The evolution

Summer to “crunch time”

- What were the biggest requirements raised?
 - *Threats for severe weather*
 - *Dispersion information (where will it go?)*
 - *Winds surface and aloft (lot of emphasis on measurements)*
 - *Aviation!!!*
- Particularly at St. Paul, aviation restrictions were quite important
 - *Strong SW winds (210-250 degrees 15 knots G 25 knots would threaten/prevent the use of the STP airport.*
 - *Chanhassen developed special aviation info*

Successful planning

What can we share between the venues?

- MICs worked to develop very similar, nearly interchangeable plans, between the two venues
- Have the right people on the bus!!
 - *Both sites used IMET support on-site (in addition to other WFO and CWSU meteorologists)*
 - *We must know how to speak the native language (ICS)*
- Developed web resources to collect/display the data most critical to operations

[illegible]

RNC website

General Weather Briefing - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx?n=brief

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google

Go

Bookmarks 7 blocked

Check

Look for Map

AutoFill

Send to

Settings

General Weather Briefing

NOAA's National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office

Twin Cities, MN

Home Site Map News Organization

Search for: NWS All NOAA Go

Specific Severe Weather Aviation Weather Dispersion

General Weather Briefing

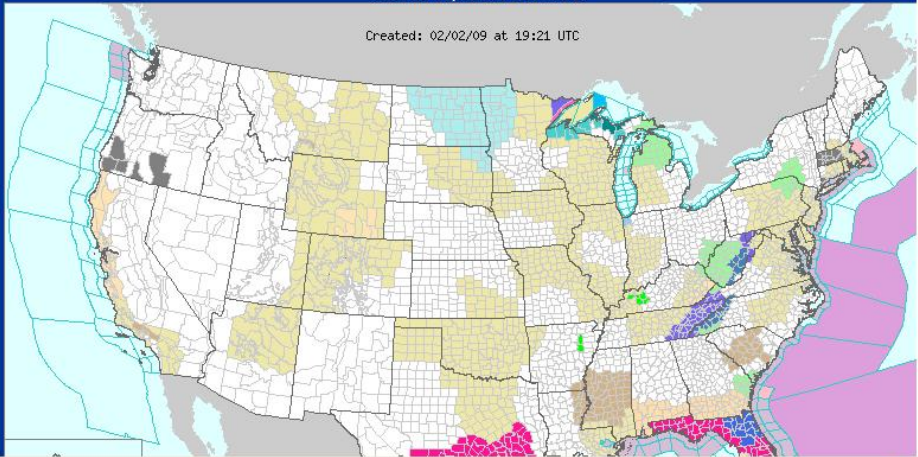
NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service

Home > National Weather Hazards

National Weather Hazards

Click On Map Below To Zoom In.

Created: 02/02/09 at 19:21 UTC



Internet 100%

Successful planning

Coordination is key!

- For both conventions, conference calls were held twice daily between key NOAA players
 - *CRH, WFO/CWSU, NWS HQ, National Centers, on-site support team*
 - *Pre-briefing before partner briefings to ensure “same sheet of music”*
- Critical weather day declared for both weeks within the NWS



Successful planning

Coordination is key!



- Twice-daily sitreps (Situation Reports) prepared for NWS and NOAA leadership
 - *Function of the CRH ROC*
- Ensured positive loop for all interests within the agency

As for the particulars...

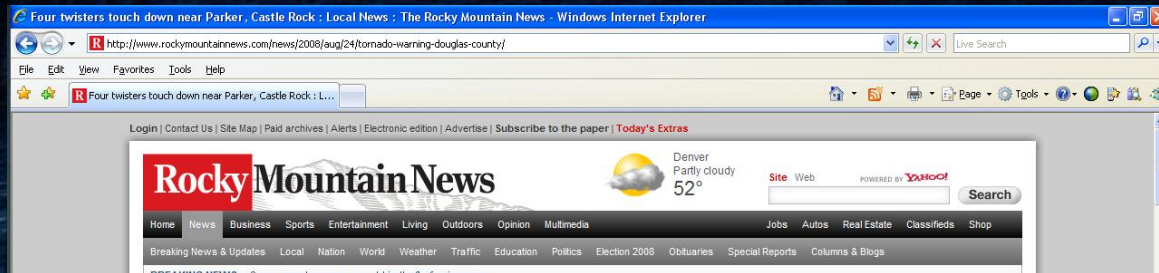
DNC Convention Support

August 23-29

- **WFO Boulder and CWSU Longmont provided on-site support to DNC in Denver, CO**
 - *Staff member (one IMET, second CWSU forecaster who is IMET qualified) on-site at the MACC from 8 am to 11 pm*
 - *Staff member (WFO MOC/WCM) on duty at the IOF/JOC 8 am to 10 pm*
 - *Dedicated forecaster to DNC support at WFO Boulder 24x7*
- **Central Region ROC provided remote support to WFO Boulder and CWSU Longmont**
 - *8 am to 4 pm*
 - *On-call after hours*

DNC Convention Support

Off to a fun start! ☺



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Four twisters touch down near Parker, Castle Rock

Rocky Mountain News
Published August 24, 2008 at 5:44 p.m.
Updated August 24, 2008 at 10:10 p.m.

Text size

33 Comments Email Print



Tornado Tears Up Campground - Denver Weather News Story - KMGH Denver - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.thedenverchannel.com/weather/17276783/detail.html

7NEWS The Denver Channel.com

Now, every visit to Winter Park is a chance to win \$10,000 cash!

Denver Weather

Tornado Tears Up Campground

Minor Injuries Reported

POSTED: 4:39 pm MDT August 23, 2008
UPDATED: 6:35 pm MDT August 23, 2008

DENVER -- A tornado twisted up a Park County campground near Eleven Mile Canyon Reservoir Saturday.

A spokesperson for the Park County Sheriff's Office said the tornado touched down at 2:16 p.m. near Witcher's cove.

It moved along the west shore for about six miles and knocked boats off trailers and overturned campers.

Images: Tornado Spotted Near Reservoir

One camp trailer was destroyed, the National Weather Service said there were only minor injuries.

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Listed by Traveloo
*Some taxes, fees additional

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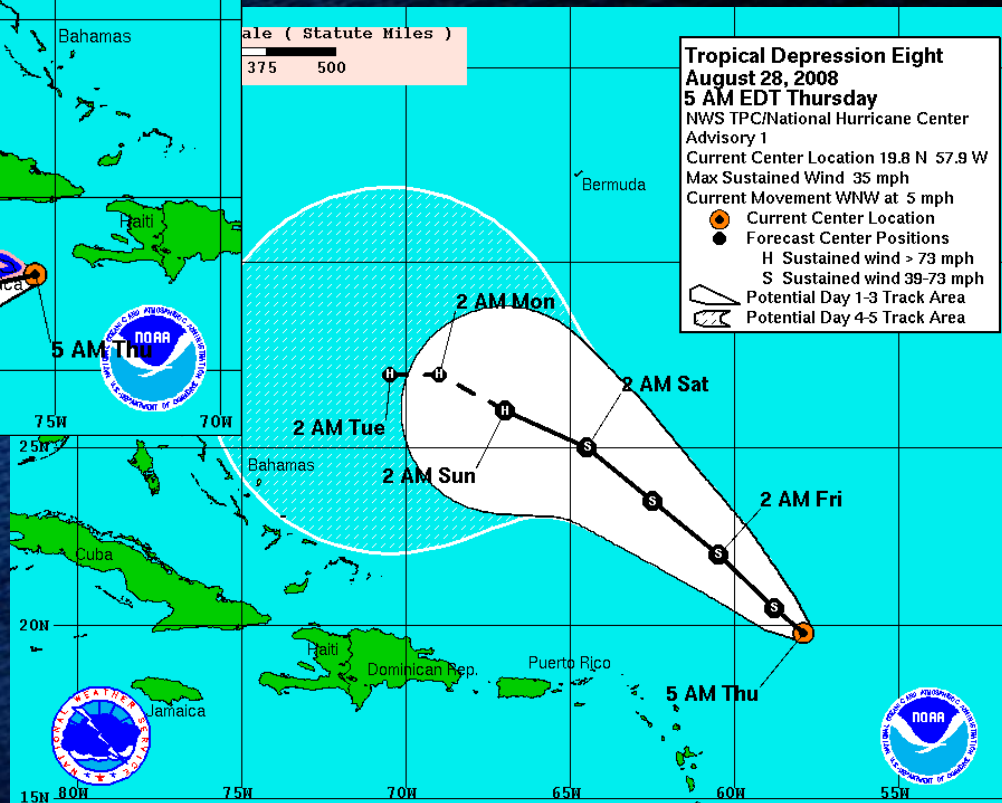
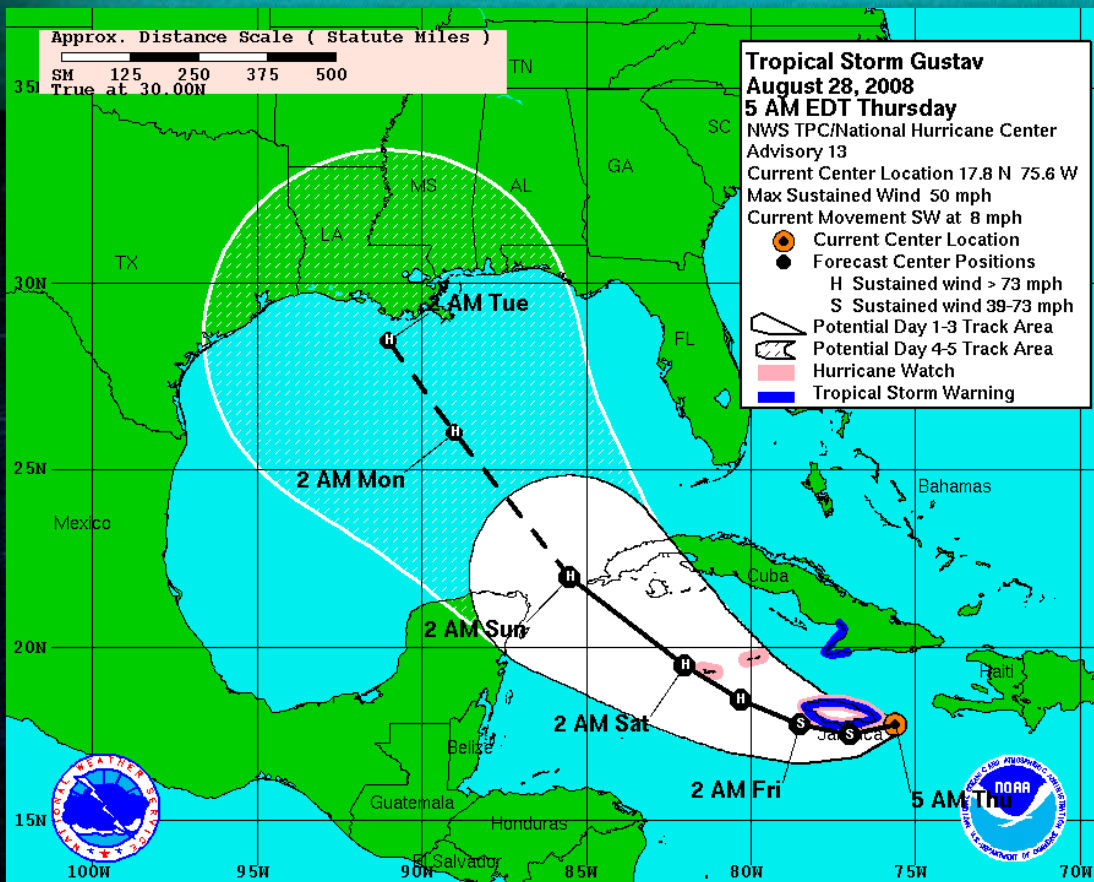
Amazon

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DNC Convention Support

August 23-29

- **Aside from tornadoes south and east of Denver on 8/23, weather was extremely quiet all week.**
- **Towards the end of the convention, on-site support was asked more frequently about developing tropical situation...**



RNC Convention Support

August 25-29

- WFO Chicago team (MIC, WCM, SOO) provided on-site support to FEMA Region V RRCC from 8/25-8/29
 - *More-or-less a “test run” for the next week’s events*
- Central Region ROC involved with DNC primarily during this week

RNC Convention Support

August 30-September 4

- **WFO Twin Cities provided on-site support to RNC in St. Paul, MN**
 - *One to two staff members on-site at the MACC/IOF from 6 am to 5 pm (always the IMET)*
 - *Dedicated forecaster at the WFO from 6 am to 8 pm*
- **Central Region ROC provided on-site support to FEMA Region V RRCC in Chicago, IL**
 - *6 am to midnight daily (two shifts)*

DNC Convention Support

August 30-September 4

- “Chamber of Commerce” weather all week in St. Paul
 - *Only one day of light rain all week*
- Primary focus for decision support services was on the tropics
 - *Especially true from CRH ROC staff at FEMA Region V HQ*
 - *ROC staff attended NHC VTC briefings and monitored/updated as needed*

Key lessons learned/Best Practices

- Plan, plan, plan...
- Be well versed in the native language/structure
- Use simple visualization tools to assist in data communication
- Listen and then anticipate changing requirements/needs
 - *Developments in the tropics while convention weather was quiet*

Key lessons learned/Best Practices

- Research then engage all key partners
- Utilize expertise in the IMET program!
- Coordinate and unify the corporate message
- Have fun!!!



Questions?

